

NORTHERN TRIBUNE.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1883.

THE GLORY OF CHEBOYGAN.

A Genuine Palladium of Power.

A Common Fountain of Golden Wisdom from which the Poorest Child.

And whosoever will, may Freely drink and be Enriched Forever.

Hundreds of Thirsty Children Daily Receiving the Saving Streams of Knowledge from our Schools.

An Interesting Account

The first regular school, governed by a regular board of trustees, occupied the building lately changed into a saloon by Mr. John Becker. The demand for more room not being necessary, this building was all that was required for some time. The next change was made to the building lately occupied by Post & VanArsdale, and belonging to Mr. Backus. This was comfortably prepared for school work, and from the marginal notes placed in the Record by Director Sammons one would infer that he had a troublesome task in the selection of efficient teachers. Opposite one teacher's name we find the criticism "Better study law" "no good." Since which time we learn that the individual referred to acted upon Director Sammons' advice and is to-day a prominent lawyer.

Again a change is made. This time the Court House is made to do service until a school house is built. At this period it was found necessary to organize a second division, and engage an assistant teacher. For the first few years lady teachers were found to suffice, many of whom did excellent work, and labored under many disadvantages in the shape of inadequate accommodations, irregular attendance, etc.

The Board of Trustees then decided to engage male principals, prominent among whom was Mr. Woolsey, a teacher of marked ability and wonderful tact in school government. His premature death closed a career that had every indication of being a brilliant and useful one. Salaries ranged from \$35 to \$100 per month, and we find the successive boards of trustees always liberal to pay good salaries to the teachers engaged from time to time, who merited their approval by efficient work in the school room. Of all the teachers employed, O. B. Weed served the longest time, first as assistant and then as principal. When we mark the successive stages of the development of the school system in Cheboygan, we find, as in all new places, that it keeps pace with the development of the town. As better buildings are erected for business places, and commodious residences take the place of the primitive log houses, so we find better buildings, with larger accommodations erected for school purposes.

This takes us up to the fall of '69, when we find that at the annual meeting, the subject of creating and organizing a graded school for the district was voted upon. The necessary two-thirds vote of the electors present being obtained, the next step was the election of a board of six trustees, instead of the three who up to this time held the reins of government. The result was as follows; for the term of one year, Philip Breeze, David Smith; for two years; M. W. Horne, Francis Sammons, and for three years, Daniel Wheelock, and John Barber.

The necessity of providing a suitable building and accommodations for the district next engrossed the attention of the trustees. They voted at a special meeting held shortly after their selection, to erect a building to cost not less than \$10,000. Mr. Sammons generously donating a piece of land for the site, it was found that this would not be large enough to serve the purpose of school grounds, so it was resolved that the board should purchase enough land to make two acres in all. This was again modified so that the grounds were limited to their present extent.

The proposed building was an undertaking of some magnitude in the infancy of Cheboygan, and no wonder that we find in the records, meetings and adjournments, motions and amendments every few days, but final action was at last taken, when the following committee, Messrs. R. Patterson, Stevenson, Dr. Maiden, Jno. Lain, and F. S. Abbot, sub-

mitted the plans and specifications procured by them, which were adopted. Bonds were issued, money raised, and the present school building erected A. D. 1872. Let us now turn our attention for a moment to the attendance of pupils. Winter months showed the highest average, but during the summer season scarcely a "corporal's guard." The pupils were kept out to assist their parents in developing homes and securing the necessities of life.

In 1866 the average daily attendance for the district was 31. The amount received from the primary school fund was \$47.20.

In 1875 the average daily attendance was 46. The amount received from primary school fund was \$68.16.

In 1882 the average daily attendance was 234. The amount received from primary school fund was \$613.24.

In 1883 the total enrollment numbers for the year was 416. The amount received from primary school fund was \$915.34.

The present principal, Prof. E. D. Sutherland, is a Canadian by birth, and at present a Yankee by his own election—an excellent combination, producing an excellent character. The Professor was advantaged with a two year's course in the University of Toronto, Canada, where he acquitted himself with honor; he graduated at the Toronto Normal, obtaining the highest mark for "aptitude to teach" bestowed upon any one by the Normal in a period of 16 years. He was honored with the position he now occupies in August, 1881, and the following month entered upon the discharge of his duties, since which time he has known nothing but the upbuilding of the schools of Cheboygan.

The great naturalist, Agassiz, named himself in his will as "teacher" and truly there is no higher calling.

Prof. Sutherland has had imparted into him an extraordinary power of communicating knowledge, and this faculty connected with a devoted ambition to excel, gives him that success of which he is entirely worthy. He is an indefatigable worker, a genuine student, a true thinker, with originality, force, and lucidly discerns and places before the mind of the student what is being sought for. The professor has no time to kill, is never seen loafing, and in this regard sets a most excellent example, and his behavior in the school room, on the street, at the Sunday school and everywhere is that of a gentleman, while all his spare time is utilized in study, with a view of obtaining greater proficiency. Among the results of Prof. Sutherland's labors in the Cheboygan school may be noted the following:

1. He has introduced and perfected a regular graded course with monthly written examinations.
2. He has enforced order, demonstrating his ability to control or govern the hundreds of pupils under his charge.
3. He has developed in the minds of the pupils their capacity for work, carefully and constantly causing them to grow in mental strength, in the power to think.
4. He has succeeded in enlisting his scholars for work, so that they enter cheerfully upon their tasks to strive for mastery.
5. He has given the best general satisfaction, and we have heard of no unfriendly criticism or opposition.

There are some things we might criticize if disposed to, but there has been so much advance made under the labors of Professor Sutherland and his valuable associates that we refrain from criticism. But this we will assert. The parents are sadly deficient in manifesting interest in the education of their children. They should visit the school-room, hear the recitations, talk with the teacher, and show forth what they feel in reference to the education of their children. Something should be done to elicit more practical and co-operative sympathy in the welfare of the children from the parents. Nothing more encourages a true teacher than to know that his work is carefully watched and known by the parents.

The Cheboygan school is not what it should be. There is always room for improvement, and there is certainly great room for improvement in the Cheboygan school, and no one feels this so keenly as does Prof. Sutherland. It takes many years of patient toil, wise planning and successful labor to perfect a healthful, efficient and thorough school. The present board are intelligent, progressive, wide-awake men; Prof. Sutherland a pronounced success; Cheboygan is improving in every direction, and especially in school matters she has reasons to be grateful and courageous.

As assistants Prof. Sutherland has in the grammar department Mr. W. L. Barr, in the intermediate department Miss Libbie Hamilton, in the senior primary department, Miss Jessie Shadbolt, and in the junior primary Miss

Lottie Loucks; all these persons are eminently qualified to do the work assigned them in their respective departments. Hon. Geo. W. Bell is chairman of the Board, and a better man for the position could not be found, as he is himself an educated gentleman, fully in sympathy with the cause of education everywhere and especially in our own community. All the members of the board harmoniously co-operate for the best interests of the school. Too much credit cannot be given to Dr. A. M. Gerow, the present Director, upon whom has devolved for about fifteen years many of the sacrifices and labors that have contributed so successfully to the making of Cheboygan a city. He is one of the many educated, cultured and progressive persons who honor Canada, the land of his birth. Wherever he works, success follows him, and in all that pertains to education, he is, as in his profession, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

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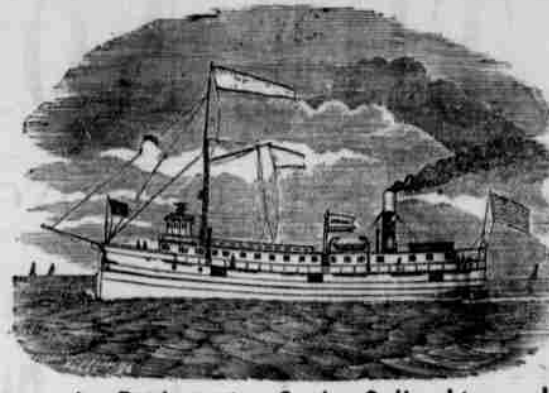
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